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In conclusion we cannot too much approve the constant use of Latin to hide the hideous nakedness of the facts portrayed in the book. The frequent use of technical terms is also to be recommended, since it renders the book less comprehensible to the "laity," who are best off in total ignorance of its contents. In dwelling so long on this sad subject, we feel there is no need of an excuse, since the problem presented is comparatively new and of vital importance to the state.

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**ABBOTT'S TRIAL BRIEF. CIVIL JURY TRIALS.** Second edition. The Lawyer's Co-operative Publishing Company. Rochester, N. Y. 1900.

This is a second and enlarged edition of one of those useful books which were issued in generous succession by the late Austin Abbott, either alone or jointly with his brother Benjamin V. Abbott—*e. g.*, the "Old Series" reports, "New Series," "New Cases," "Forms of Pleading," etc. To the "office" lawyer, with ample time to study before acting, or to the metaphysical lawyer, who deals only with supposititious cases, this volume, and all *ejusdem generis*, can be of little interest. Even to the practitioner whose litigated business is under common law procedure, the original chapters of this work, which were chiefly under the New York Statutes, may not be available; but to the advocate engaged in the conduct of actions in states (now a majority of the United States) wherein Civil Codes of Procedure have been enacted, to whom courts, trials, and opposing counsel are actual, visible, inevitable realities of his bread-winning life, such a book is of great value. To lawyers in any jurisdiction, the chapters added by the "Publishers Editorial Staff," are useful and helpful in their summaries of law and citations of recent cases—and from a brief compendium of the law of evidence. The titles, "Examinations of Witnesses" and "Exhibition and View," would seem especially interesting—to the general legal reader.

J. W. P.

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**THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN BANKRUPTCY.** By WILLIAM MILLER COLLIER. Third edition. Revised and enlarged by JAMES W. EATON. Albany, New York: Matthew Bender. 1900.

The many friends of Collier on Bankruptcy will scarcely recognize it in its new form. The early editions contained much that was of value as pointing out the probable trend of decision under the Act of 1898 by reference to the decided cases under the old acts. Much of this matter has been superseded by late decisions under the Act of 1898, and some of it has been rendered of no application. The new edition of Collier has discarded all such superseded matter and has turned to the case law under the new act for a commentary upon its provisions. While there is perhaps not quite so much matter in the notes to the various sections, what there is is exceedingly well

written and very much to the point. There is a judicious blending of the apposite decisions under the Act of 1867 with those under the Act of 1898, so that a very complete view of the law is afforded. It has always seemed to the present writer that the only practical way to treat such a subject as Bankruptcy was to follow the divisions of the subject made by the act itself, and not to attempt to group together in a so-called logical treatment sections separated in the act, but which deal with similar or cognate subjects. Such a grouping in treatment depends very much upon the personal equation of the author, and only leads to confusion on the part of those who use the book because their mental analysis of the subject may not be the same as that of the author. The objection that is raised to the treatment section by section is, that it must be in the nature of things somewhat fragmentary. Thus, for instance, it is said that since Section 2 and Section 23 deal with the same head, namely jurisdiction, they should be treated together; that, as parts of Sections 3, 18, and 59 deal with the procedure requisite to the filing of a petition, they should logically go together, and that a person unacquainted with a full text of the act may be led to suppose that he knows practically all the requirements of a petition when he has read Section 3 and Section 18 and may overlook Section 59, but any such difficulty as this, if indeed it be a difficulty, is overcome by Mr. Eaton by a thorough system of cross-references between sections, and the references in the notes to one section, to the cognate sections.

On the whole, there seems to be no doubt that the arrangement of the book is the proper one. It has in addition a merit which seems to be lacking in most of the books which follow this system, in that the notes to the various sections are not mere sketches of a perfunctory sort, but are thorough and scholarly discussions of the points raised. A great improvement in the present edition is the enlargement of the type in the notes, which was perhaps too small for comfort to the eyes in the earlier editions. The paper and presswork also seem to be somewhat better in the present edition than in the earlier ones. On the whole, we believe that Collier is the most convenient and satisfactory reference work for a practitioner in Bankruptcy that has been given to the public.

O. J. R.

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ELECTRIC LAW. By J. A. JOYCE and H. C. JOYCE. New York : Banks Law Publishing Company. 1900.

This is an excellent book. We have no hesitation in saying that the authors have fulfilled the purpose set forth in their preface; to wit: "to clearly, understandingly and logically present to the profession the entire law on the subject of electricity, with the reasons for its application, and so furnish the Bench and Bar with a work which will not be a mere reference text-book, but a treatise, and one which can be consulted and used to advantage by courts and lawyers, and be also of practical value, both to them and to electrical corporations." In view of the use of the book by non-lawyers, the full dis-